VIDEO JACK 2
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EPIC COMICS®

VIDEO JACK

SCANNED BY TOKER THE KID

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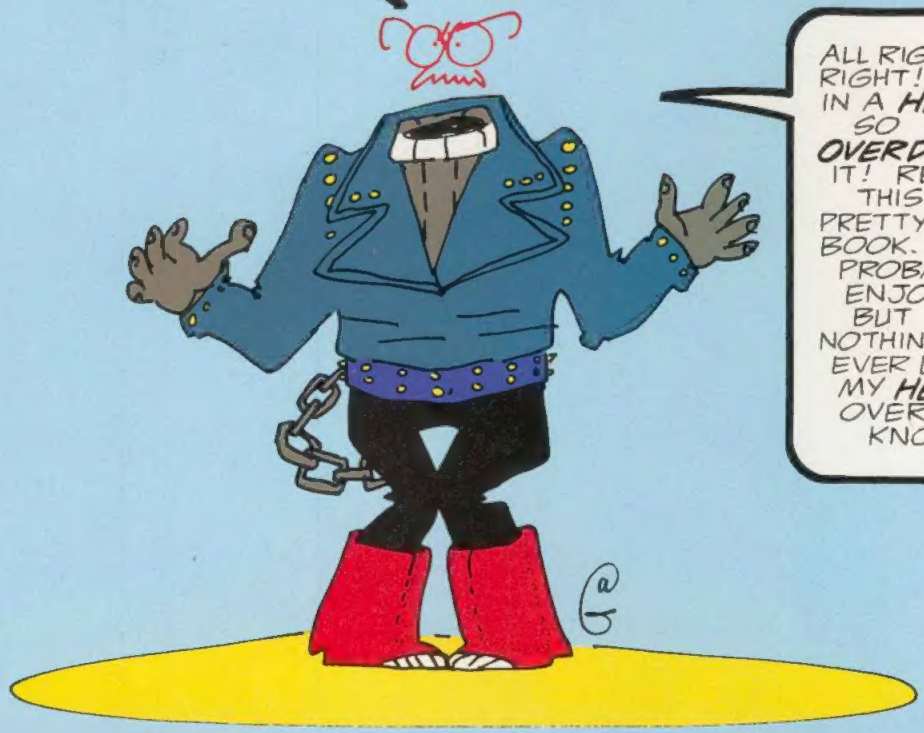
I'M **ARCHIE GOODWIN**, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF **EPIC COMICS**, AND I WAS JUST ABOUT TO HIT THE TRAIL FOR THE BIG SUMMER COMIC CONVENTIONS WHEN **VIDEO JACK** EDITOR **MARGARET CLARK** STOPPED ME. SHE SAID I HADN'T DONE AN **EDITORIAL** YET AND AND THREW THIS STUPID **COSTUME** ON ME. OKAY. LET'S GET THIS OVER **FAST!** I'VE GOT SOME SERIOUS **PARTYING** TO--PARDON ME--SERIOUS **PROMOTION** TO DO FOR OUR BOOKS. I HAVEN'T LOOKED IN THE MIRROR, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HECK I'M SUPPOSED TO BE, BUT I'M CERTAIN IT'LL **INSPIRE** ALL YOU READERS TO RUSH INTO THE MOST MAGNIFICENT STORY CO-CREATORS **CARY BATES** AND **KEITH GIFFEN** HAVE YET DE-VISED FOR THIS, THE MOST TALKED-ABOUT SERIES OF THE SEASON, THE MOST MASTERFUL--



ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! SO I'M IN A **HURRY!** SO I'M **OVERDOING** IT! REALLY, THIS IS A PRETTY GOOD BOOK. YOU'LL PROBABLY ENJOY IT. BUT IT'S NOTHING I'D EVER LOSE MY **HEAD** OVER, YOU KNOW?

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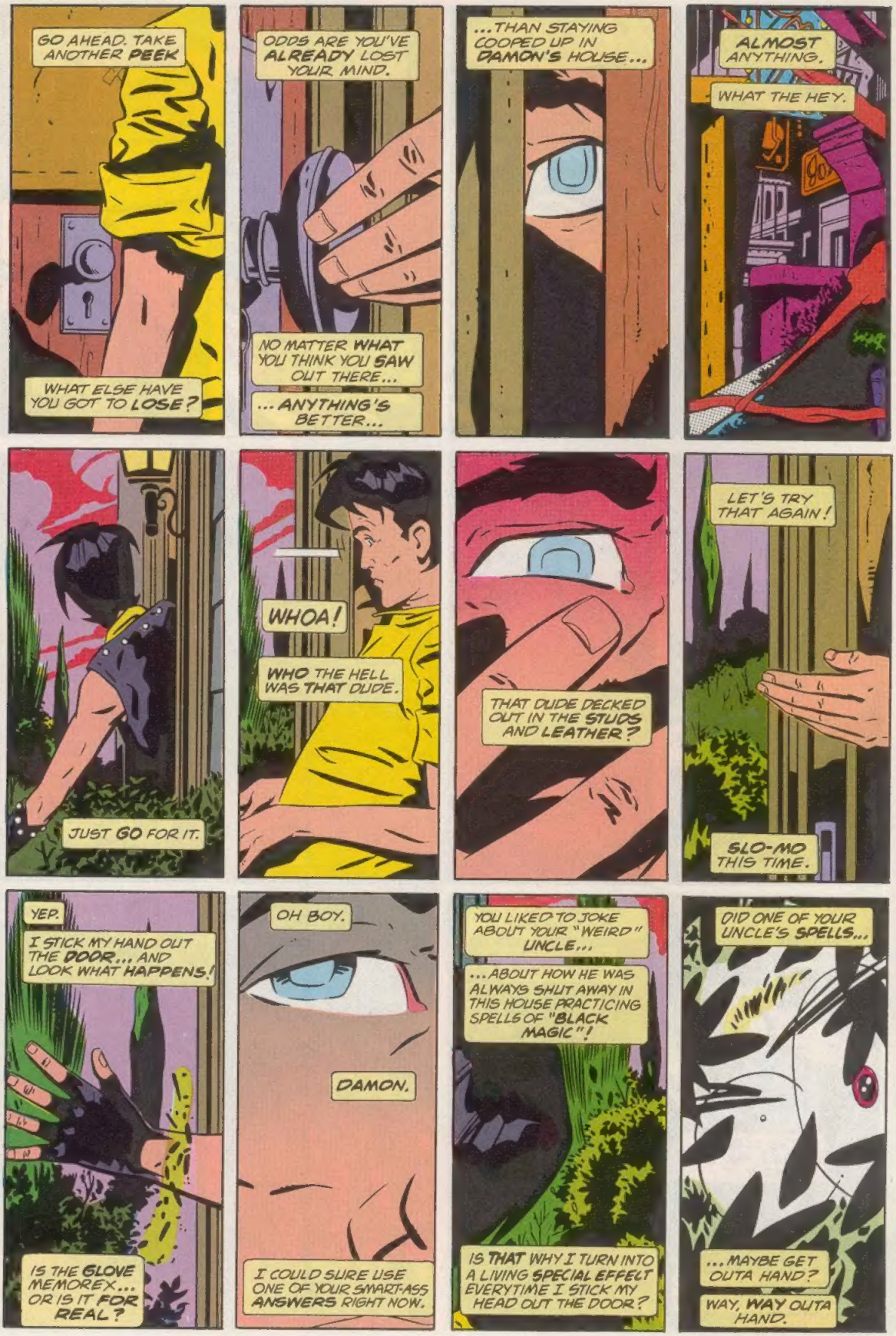
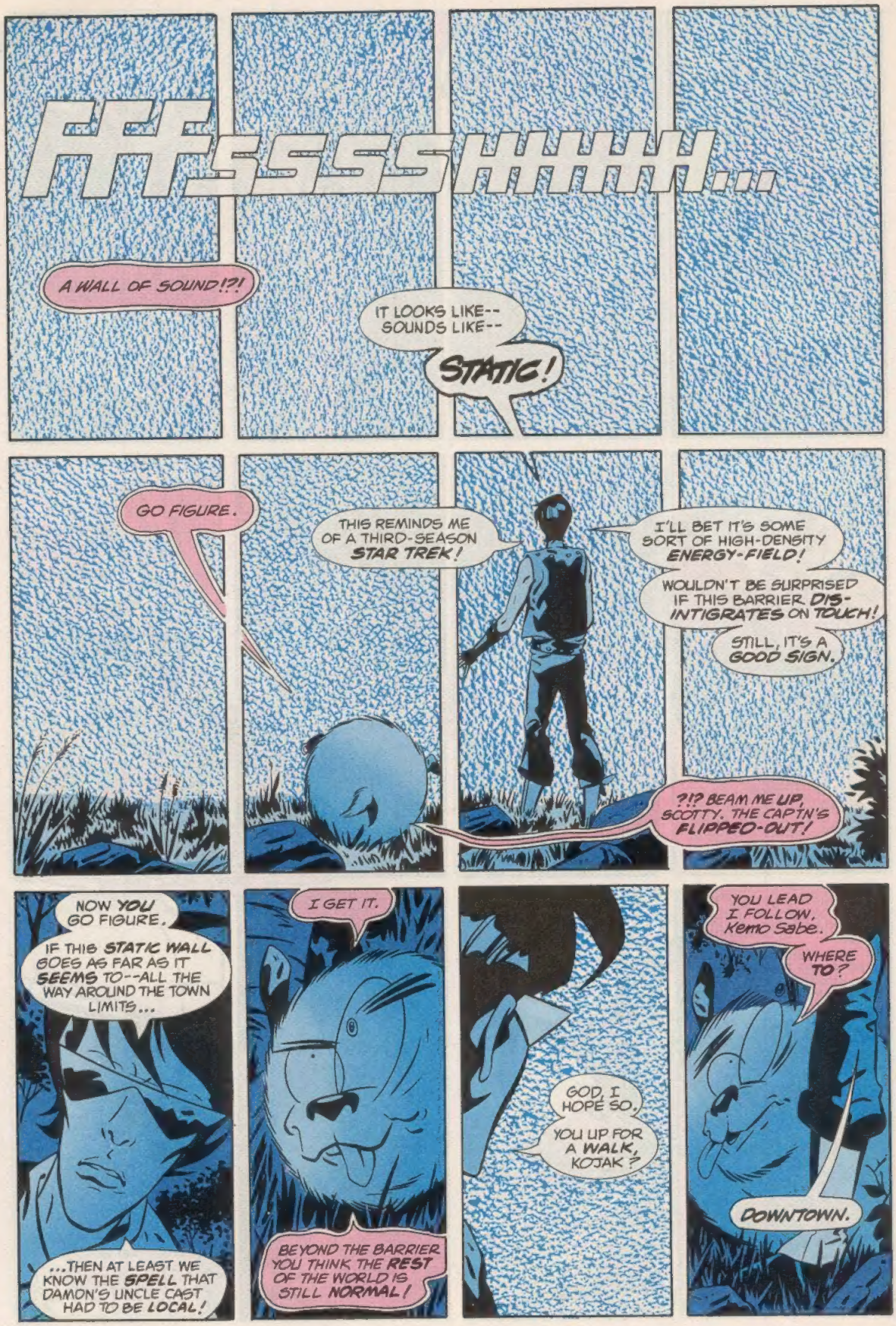
BLUBB-GLUBB-GLUBB-
plot / dialogue: CARY BATES
plot / pencils KEITH GIFFEN
--SPTUH--COUGH--
WHAT WOULD RAMBO DO AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
I KNOW.
INKS: DAVE HUNT
LETTERING: L.P. GREGORY
COLORS: JOHN WELLINGTON.
GET SERIOUS.
YOU'RE NOT RAMBO.
YOU'RE ONLY JACK.
CREATED by: CARY BATES-- KEITH GIFFEN
THIS IS NO FANTASY.
NO DREAM.
YOU'RE ALREADY AWAKE AND YOU KNOW IT.
AFTER WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH, PAL...
...YOU OUGHTA JUST BE GRATEFUL.
GLAD YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.
THE GRATEFUL LIVE
GRATITUDE.
THAT MUST BE WHY I'M SHAKING.


GO AHEAD. TAKE ANOTHER PEEK
WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU GOT TO LOSE?
ODDS ARE YOU'VE ALREADY LOST YOUR MIND.
NO MATTER WHAT YOU THINK YOU SAW OUT THERE...
...ANYTHING'S BETTER...
...THAN STAYING COOPED UP IN DAMON'S HOUSE...
ALMOST ANYTHING.
WHAT THE HEY.
JUST GO FOR IT.
WHOA!
WHO THE HELL WAS THAT DUDE.
THAT DUDE DECKED OUT IN THE STUDS AND LEATHER?
LET'S TRY THAT AGAIN!
SLO-MO THIS TIME.
YEP.
I STICK MY HAND OUT THE DOOR... AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENS!
IS THE GLOVE MEMOREX... OR IS IT FOR REAL?
OH BOY.
DAMON.
I COULD SURE USE ONE OF YOUR SMART-ASS ANSWERS RIGHT NOW.
YOU LIKED TO JOKE ABOUT YOUR "WEIRD" UNCLE...
...ABOUT HOW HE WAS ALWAYS SHUT AWAY IN THIS HOUSE PRACTICING SPELLS OF "BLACK MAGIC"!
IS THAT WHY I TURN INTO A LIVING SPECIAL EFFECT EVERYTIME I STICK MY HEAD OUT THE DOOR?
DID ONE OF YOUR UNCLE'S SPELLS...
...MAYBE GET OUTA HAND?
WAY, WAY OUTA HAND.

NOW THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL A BRILLIANT DEDUCTION, SHERLOCK.
?!? WHO'S THERE?
WHO'S THERE? WHO DID YOU LEAVE OUTSIDE TO GUARD THE HOUSE WHILE YOU WENT INSIDE TO RAISE HELL WITH DAMON?
OR TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY--
WHO LOVES YA, BABY?
KOJAK???
Eyaaa
-sigh- THAT WAS A BIT TOO ANTHROPOMORPHIC OF ME, I SUPPOSE.
Hmmmm.
I GUESS HE NEEDS TIME TO ADJUST.
MAYBE IF I TAKE IT SLOWER!
MAYBE IF I DO SOMETHING...
...A LITTLE MORE DOG-LIKE!

BOINGGGG!
EEYKOOWWW!
UH OH!
I DO HOPE THIS TONGUE IS RETRACTABLE.
WHAT HAPPENED TO US, KOJAK?
THAT'S NO MOON I EVER SAW BEFORE. THAT'S NOT EVEN REAL SKY.
THIS ISN'T THE SAME HICKORY HAVEN I GREW UP IN!
THESE AREN'T THE SAME WOODS WE USED TO PLAY IN.
LOOK AT ME--THESE AREN'T MY CLOTHES. I LOOK LIKE A REJECT FROM A PUNK BAND.
AND YOU--WHATEVER YOU ARE, YOU CAN'T BE THE SAME KOJAK I RAISED FROM A PUP!
WRONG, BUCKO.
OKAY, SO I CAN'T WEAR A FLEA AND-TICK COLLAR ANYMORE...
...AND SO MAYBE NOW I CAN READ TV GUIDE WHILE I'M CHEWING ON IT...
...BUT HEY, NOT ALL THAT MUCH HAS CHANGED.
NOT WHERE IT REALLY COUNTS.
IT'S LIKE I SAID AT THE TOP--WHO LOVES YA?
I'M STILL YOUR FAITHFUL KOJAK!
BUT I'VE BEEN DOING ALL THE TALKING!
YOUR TURN, MASTER MINE
SAY SOMETHING!
ALL RIGHT. I SAY WE FORGE AHEAD AND HUNT FOR DAMON.
BESIDES YOU, HE MAY BE THE ONLY FRIEND I HAVE LEFT!
WHAT A REVOLTING THOUGHT!
"YOU SEE IT, KOJAK? SOMETHING STRANGE BEYOND THOSE TREES!
"SEE IT? I EVEN HEAR IT!"


FFSSSSHHHHH...
A WALL OF SOUND!?!
IT LOOKS LIKE-- SOUNDS LIKE--
STATIC!
GO FIGURE.
THIS REMINDS ME OF A THIRD-SEASON STAR TREK!
I'LL BET IT'S SOME SORT OF HIGH-DENSITY ENERGY-FIELD!
WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF THIS BARRIER DIS-INTIGRATES ON TOUCH!
STILL, IT'S A GOOD SIGN.
?!? BEAM ME UP, SCOTTY. THE CAPTN'S FLIPPED-OUT!
NOW YOU GO FIGURE.
IF THIS STATIC WALL GOES AS FAR AS IT SEEMS TO--ALL THE WAY AROUND THE TOWN LIMITS...
...THEN AT LEAST WE KNOW THE SPELL THAT DAMON'S UNCLE CAST HAD TO BE LOCAL!
I GET IT.
BEYOND THE BARRIER YOU THINK THE REST OF THE WORLD IS STILL NORMAL!
GOD, I HOPE SO.
YOU UP FOR A WALK, KOJAK?
YOU LEAD I FOLLOW, Kemo Sabe.
WHERE TO?
DOWNTOWN.

JACK
HEAR THAT, KOJAK? THOSE STRANGE VOICES AGAIN!
JACK
EVER SINCE I WOKE UP AT DAMON'S HOUSE, THEY FADE IN AND OUT SINGING MY NAME!
ACAPPELLA, NO LESS.
I'VE GOT AN IDEA ABOUT WHAT THIS REMINDS ME OF, KOJAK.
BUT WHAT I'M THINKING IS SO RADICAL--
IN SUCH A MAJOR WAY--
--I DON'T EVEN WANT TO SAY IT--
YOU DON'T HAVE TO, CHIEF. THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE GOT A TELEPATHIC TALKING DOG FOR!
A MUSIC VIDEO!
EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE YOU SEE IN HICKORY HAVEN MAKES YOU THINK THE WHOLE TOWN HAS TURNED INTO A LIVING MUSIC VIDEO!
OKAY, OKAY-- BUT IT MAKES NO SENSE.
EVEN IF DAMON'S UNCLE WAS A WARLOCK... HE WAS STILL A 70 YEAR OLD MAN FROM THE "OLD COUNTRY".
SET IN HIS WAYS.
A HERMIT.
WHATEVER HE MAY HAVE EXPECTED HIS BLACK MAGIC TO DO FOR THIS TOWN--
--THIS COULDN'T HAVE BEEN IT!
IT'S BEEN A LONG NIGHT, KOJAK...
I NEED TO LIE DOWN FOR AWHILE.
IN MY OWN BED.
I TAKE IT WE'RE TALKING HOME HERE, BIG GUY.
THEN HOME IT IS!

REMIND ME TO DITCH THIS *OUTFIT* BEFORE *MOM* SEES ME.

NO--

REMIND ME TO *BURN* THIS OUTFIT BEFORE *MOM* SEES ME.

DON'T BE A WUS.

I HAPPEN TO *LIKE*--

-WE INTERRUPT THIS STORY FOR AN URGENT MESSAGE IN PROGRESS-

--WE WERE TOO LATE, YOUR AWE-SOMENESS.

"CUT THE CRAP."

"JUST THE FACTS, MAN."

WE SEARCHED THE HOUSE.

BASEMENT TO ATTIC.

NO SIGN OF SWIFT ANYWHERE.

BUT THERE *WAS* SOMETHING *STRANGE*.

"WHAT'S THAT."

THAT *VIDEO-ROOM*.

IT WAS A REAL KILLER.

"RUN THAT BY ME AGAIN?"

KABOOM

INSTANT REPLAY

SEE WHAT I MEAN?

"OKAY, OKAY. THE VIDEO ROOM WAS A REAL KILLER!"

WE NOW RETURN TO OUR STORY--

--PLEASE STAND BY--

REMIND ME TO DITCH THIS *OUTFIT* BEFORE *MOM* SEES ME.

NO--

REMIND ME TO *BURN* THIS OUTFIT BEFORE *MOM* SEES ME.

DON'T BE A WUS.

I HAPPEN TO *LIKE* YOUR *NEW LOOK*.

sheesh!
THIS IS OUR BLOCK ALL RIGHT...
BUT THAT ISN'T.. THAT CAN'T BE...
Swift
I THINK THEY CALL THE STYLE EARLY AMERICAN WAR-BUNKER!
OKAY, SO IT AIN'T THE CLEAVER HOUSE ANYMORE...
...BUT YOU AIN'T EXACTLY THE BEAVER!
A NIGHTMARE!
TELL ME I'M HAVING A NIGHTMARE.
OKAY, YOU'RE HAVING A NIGHTMARE.
THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS WAKE UP IN YOUR OWN ROOM. LET'S GO IN.
NEVER SAW THIS LOCK BEFORE.
I DON'T HAVE A KEY.
YOU DON'T NEED A KEY...
...AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT OFF-KEY.
IT'S A MUSICAL LOCK, DUMMY.
NAME THE RIGHT TUNE AND WE'RE IN.
I GET IT.
HMMMM... NOW WHAT'S MOM'S FAVORITE SONG.
I KNOW--TIE A YELLOW RIBBON!
THREE HOURS LATER...
?!?
WE'RE IN, KOJAK--BUT I DON'T KNOW WHICH SONG DID THE TRICK!
YOU DIDN'T
I DID!
I AM WOMAN, BY HELEN REDDY--
THAT'S THE KEY YOU NEEDED, YOUNG MAN.

YOU'RE IN TROUBLE, BOY!
A WORLD OF TROUBLE!
YOU CAN SURE AS HELL SAY THAT AGAIN...
WHAT WAS THAT, BOY?
SPEAK UP LIKE YOU'VE GOT A PAIR!
OH, GEEZ.
WHAT KIND OF WORLD DID I TUNE-IN?
THIS IS MY MOTHER, FOR GODSAKES!
THIS IS MY MOTHER?
MOM... MOM...
YOU'RE... uh... RIGHT!
WHAT I DID WAS WRONG!
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE GONE OUT LAST NIGHT.
I SHOULD'VE STAYED IN MY ROOM!
AND IN YOUR ROOM YOU'LL STAY, JACK SWIFT--
--FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS--
--IN VIDEO INCOMMUNICADO!
?!? WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT MEAN?
BUT YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY TO KEEP YOU OCCUPIED, MISTER!
I'M ASSIGNING YOU TO BR DUTY!
BR DUTY?
YOU'LL FIND THE ITEM IN QUESTION ON YOUR BUNK.
IT'S APPROXIMATELY 24 CM LONG AND 16 CM WIDE.
YOU WILL CRADLE IT IN YOUR HANDS.
SPREAD IT WIDE.
AND DEVOUR IT LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW.
BECAUSE UNTIL YOU LEARN EVERY WORD OF IT--
--AS FAR AS YOU'RE CONCERNED--
--THERE IS NO TOMORROW!
YOUR ROOM IS READY AND WAITING, MISTER.
NOW UP THOSE STAIRS!
WAIT FOR ME, AMIGO.
WE'RE IN THE DOGHOUSE TOGETHER!
OH GEEZ.

A DOGHOUSE COULD ONLY BE AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THIS.
-sigh-
HOUSE-CLEANING NEVER WAS REAL BIG ON MOM'S LIST OF FAVORITE THINGS TO DO.
WHOG. IT DOES SORTA MAKE OSCAR MADISON'S ROOM LOOK STERILE.
SHE HATES ME, KOJAK.
MY MOM HATES ME.
HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF 'TOUGH LOVE', PAL?
DEEP DOWN SHE STILL CARES.
TOUGH LOVE, HUH.
THAT MUST BE WHY SHE RIPPED OUT THE TV.
!?! NO TV!??
THE BITCH!
SHE HATES US, JACK.
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
CHECK OUT THE BED, KOJAK.
A BOOK!?!
BR DUTY, KOJAK--
--BOOK READING!
THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN
RK TWAIN
'HUCKLEBERRY FINN'?
SOUNDS LIKE A LAME SATURDAY MORNING CARTOON SERIES.
A CLASSIC. THAT'S WHAT MY ENGLISH TEACHER CALLED IT WHEN SHE ASSIGNED HUCK FINN FOR A BOOK-REPORT.
I FAST-FORWARDED THROUGH A TV-MOVIE VERSION.
I GOT A C+.
I NEVER FIGURED I'D EVER HAVE TO REALLY READ THE THING!
Sheesh! IT'S INHUMAN, JACK!
CRUEL AND VICIOUS PUNISHMENT.
THE WOMAN IS A TRUE BI--
QUIET, KOJAK.
I'M TRYING TO CONCENTRATE.

CHAPTER I

CHAPTER I

CHAPTER I

CHAPTER I

CHAPTER I

CHAPTER I

CHAPTER I

KNOCK KNOCK

THUDDD...

--I'LL KICK YOUR ASSES FIRST--

...KLUNGG...

--I ORDER YOU OFF THE PREMISES--

--SHOVE YOUR NOSES SO FAR UP YOUR--

WHUPP!

EYAAHHHH!

GRGHH!

OOOOOFF!

UHHHHH...

HIS AWESOMENESS WAS **RIGHT!**

HIS AWESOMENESS IS **WISE!**

HE SAID WE WOULD FIND JACK SWIFT HERE!

I SMELL **PAPER!**

I SMELL PAPER!

I SMELL PAPER!

Z!Z WHAT DID YOU GOONS DO TO MY **MOTHER?**

SHE HAD TO BE **SUBDUED.**

NOW THE REASON FOR HER VIOLENT **RESISTANCE** BECOMES **CLEAR** TO US.

YOUR MOTHER DIDN'T WANT TO BE AN **ACCESSORY** TO YOUR CRIME OF **B-B-BOOK POSSESSION!**

uh oh.

I DON'T HAVE A **CLUE** ABOUT THE WAY **SEARCH** AND **SEIZURE** WORKS HERE, KOJAK...

DO YOU KNOW THE **PENALTY** FOR BEING CAUGHT WITH A **B-BOOK?**

...BUT EVEN **HERE** I FIGURE THEY CAN'T THROW THE BOOK AT US...

...**NOT** IF THEY **CAN'T FIND** THE **BOOK!**

WE'D BETTER **LOSE** HUCK FINN--**FAST!**

I HAD AN AWFUL FEELING YOU WERE GONNA THINK THAT!

HAND IT OVER, JACK SWIFT.

WE DETECT THE NAUSEATING FRAGRENCE OF **GLUE.**

THE KIND OF **GLUE** THE ONCE USED TO BIND **B-B-BOOKS!**

LOOK, GUYS.

GETTING **CAUGHT** IN A **BIND** IS ONE THING--

--BUT **SNIFFING** THEM IS A LITTLE **SICK,** DON'T YOU THINK?

YOU'LL BE EATING THEM NEXT!

DO NOT **TOY** WITH US, JACK SWIFT.

WE **ORDER** YOU TO HAND OVER THE **EVIDENCE!**

WHERE IS THE **B-B-BOOK?**

85.

CHOMP GLUG CHOMP

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
FAT CHANCE!
I HAVEN'T BEEN MIRANDIZED YET.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN WHAT?
B-B-BURPPP
EYAHHHH!
Z!Z
I NEVER SAW ANYONE PAGED TO DEATH BEFORE.
I'VE HEARD OF ACID INDIGESTION, KOJAK, BUT GEEZ--
THAT'S NOT ALL, BUCKO.
BRACE YOURSELF.
NOW WHAT?
YOU KNOW THAT BOOK GLUE THE GOONS PICKED UP ON?
BEDROOM SET
ACT II SCENE FOUR
I THINK I'M ALLERGIC--
ACHOOO
WHOA!
KLUNG
PTOW!
JACK...
THAT GIRL, KOJAK!
WHAT GIRL?
THAT GIRL ON THE WHEELS!
I THINK SHE'S BEEN WAITING FOR ME.
WAY I SEE IT I GOT TWO CHOICES HERE, KOJAK.
I CAN STICK AROUND TO TAKE ON A WHOLE CHORUS LINE OF THOSE GOONS...
...OR I TAKE OFF WITH THE GIRL ON THE BIKE.
VRROOM
THAT'S MY JACK.

I KINDA FIGURED YOU MIGHT BE IN THE MARKET FOR A QUICK EXIT--
VROOWWM!
...ESPECIALLY AFTER I SPOTTED AN M.T.V. SQUAD BARGING THEIR WAY INTO YOUR MOM'S HOUSE.
DID YOU SAY M.T.V.?
MOBILE TACTICAL VANGUARD #7 REPORTING, YOUR AWESOMENESS.
WE'VE GOT THEM NOW!
WE'VE GOT THEM NOW!
WE'VE GOT THEM NOW!
HANG ON, JACK.
LIKE I HAVE A CHOICE?
SWITCHING OVER TO WARP-DRIVE--
NOW

WHOSSHHH!
WARP-DRIVE, HUH.
WORKS FOR ME.
THOSE GOONS'LL NEVER CATCH UP WITH US ON JUST IMPULSE-POWER.
NOW THAT WE'VE GOT SOME BREATHING SPACE, HOW ABOUT SOME ANSWERS!
EAT MY DUST
I CAN'T FIGURE WHAT'S GOING DOWN, JACK.
EVEN ON A GOOD DAY, IT'S TOUGH NOT TO COME ACROSS ONE OF THE GOON SQUADS AT LEAST ONCE.
BUT LATELY, IT'S BEEN EVEN WORSE.
LATELY, THE M.T.V.'S HAVE BEEN DOING THEIR PATROL ROUTINES ON TRIPLE-TIME.
OUT IN FORCE, DAY AND NIGHT,.. LOOKING FOR YOU!
ME?
WHY ME?
JACK, THIS IS DOREEN--REMEMBER?
THE GOONS WEREN'T THE ONLY ONE'S WHO GOT LEFT BEHIND TO EAT THE BIKER BABE'S DUST.
DOG
STREET
IT'S A GOOD THING SHE AND JACK DON'T GET ALONG!
ALL I HAVE TO DO TO FIND THEM IS TUNE-IN TO THE SOUND OF AN ARGUMENT!
I KNOW YOU NEVER APPROVED OF MY JOINING THE RESISTANCE...
...BUT I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D LET YOUR PERSONAL FEELINGS ABOUT ME GET IN THE WAY OF THE CAUSE.
CAUSE?

WHAT CAUSE!
DOREEN, YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE.
SO MUCH BLOOD.
SO MUCH OF IT WAS MINE.
I WILL JUST HAVE TO GET BY WITH LESS FROM NOW ON.
WHAT ELSE.
THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE.
SOMETHING I WAS ON MY WAY TO DO.
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE
-COLORIZED-

THERE THEY ARE-- STILL GOING AT IT!
...SO BE THAT WAY, JACK SWIFT! DON'T HELP US!
THE OTHERS TRIED TO TELL ME YOU'D NEVER AGREE TO LEAD THE RESISTANCE!
EVERYBODY KNOWS JACK SWIFT HAS A 'HERO COMPLEX', THEY SAID.
THEY SAID YOU WORK ALONE BECAUSE YOU THINK YOU CAN SAVE THE WORLD BY YOURSELF!
?!? YOU SURE YOU GOT THE RIGHT JACK?
NEXT TIME I'LL LISTEN TO MY FRIENDS.
AND ABOUT TONIGHT, JACK--
--YOU'RE WELCOME!
DOREEN, WAIT!
I NEVER EVEN THANKED HER!
DO YOU BELIEVE THAT WAS DOREEN, KOJAK?
DOREEN!
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, PAL--
--I'M STILL A LITTLE STEAMED ABOUT THE WAY YOU AND THE BABE DITCHED ME BACK THERE.
BUT AS FOR THAT BIT ABOUT YOU BEING SOME KIND OF LONER HERO--
--OH PLEASE! CUT ME SOME SLACK!
YEAH, YEAH.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME IT MAKES NO SENSE.
THE JOCKS IN SCHOOL DIDN'T CALL ME THE TUBE BOOB FOR NOTHING!
THEY KNEW THE SCORE.
A LITTLE HEAVY INTO SELF-ABUSE HERE, AREN'T WE?
SOMEONE CALL DR. RUTH.
THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, KOJAK--
THE PEOPLE WHO RUN WITH THE BALL AND THE PEOPLE WHO DROP IT.
LET'S FACE FACTS.
ALL MY LIFE... I'VE NEVER EVEN PICKED THE BALL UP!
YOU'RE FORGETTING ONE THING.
TAKE A GOOD LOOK AROUND YOU. THIS ISN'T THE WORLD YOU AND I WERE BORN INTO.
NOTHING'S THE SAME AS IT USED TO BE.
NOT ME...
NOT YOU...
NOT EVEN THAT NEWSPAPER!

NOT THAT YOUR FAITHFUL POOCH HERE MEANS TO BRING YOU DOWN.

LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE--THINGS COULD STILL BE A LOT WORSE!

WE COULD HAVE FOUND DAMON!

DAMON. I NEVER THOUGHT I'D ADMIT THIS, KOJ... BUT YOU KNOW SOMETHING?

YOU MISS THE SCUM-SUCKER.

DAMON ALWAYS WAS A LOT FASTER ON THE UPTAKE THAN ME.

RIGHT NOW I COULD SURE USE A FEW OF HIS SMART-ASS ANSWERS!

Pssst, Jack...

OVER THERE--

ISN'T THAT WHATSHERFACE?

YOU KNOW, THE BLONDE FOX FROM HYGIENE CLASS WHO NEVER NOTICED YOU WERE ALIVE?

YO, JACK?

MAPLE TV

OH WOW.

KOJAK, CHECK OUT THE SCREEN.

DOESN'T THAT LOOK A LOT LIKE THE DOT MATRIX MODEL I SAW IN MR. MAPLE'S WINDOW?

MAPLE TV

NOW IT IS MR. MAPLE'S WINDOW.

AND WE'RE NOT TALKING 27 INCHES ANYMORE.

WE'RE TALKING 27 FEET!

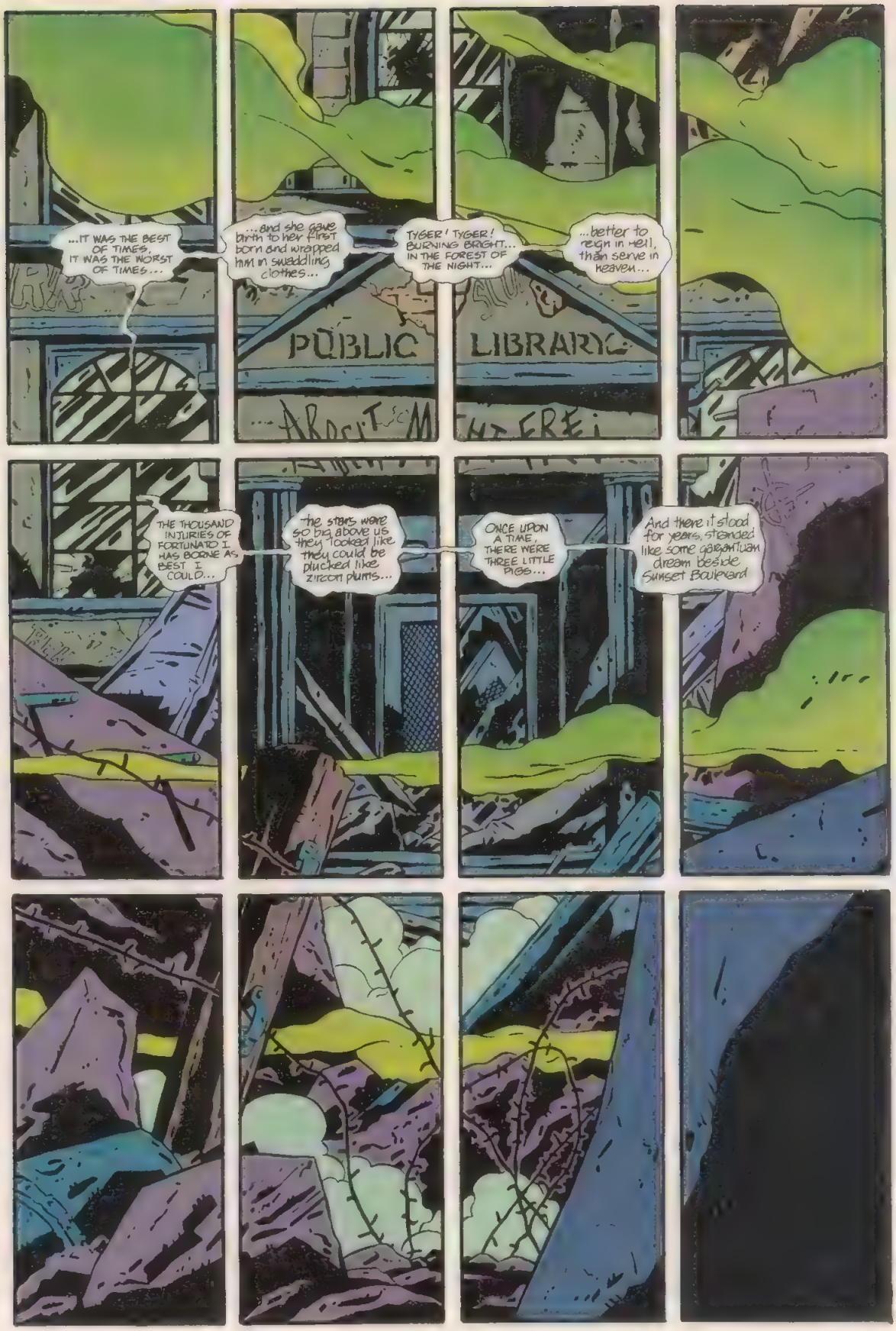
THERE HE IS!

uh oh!

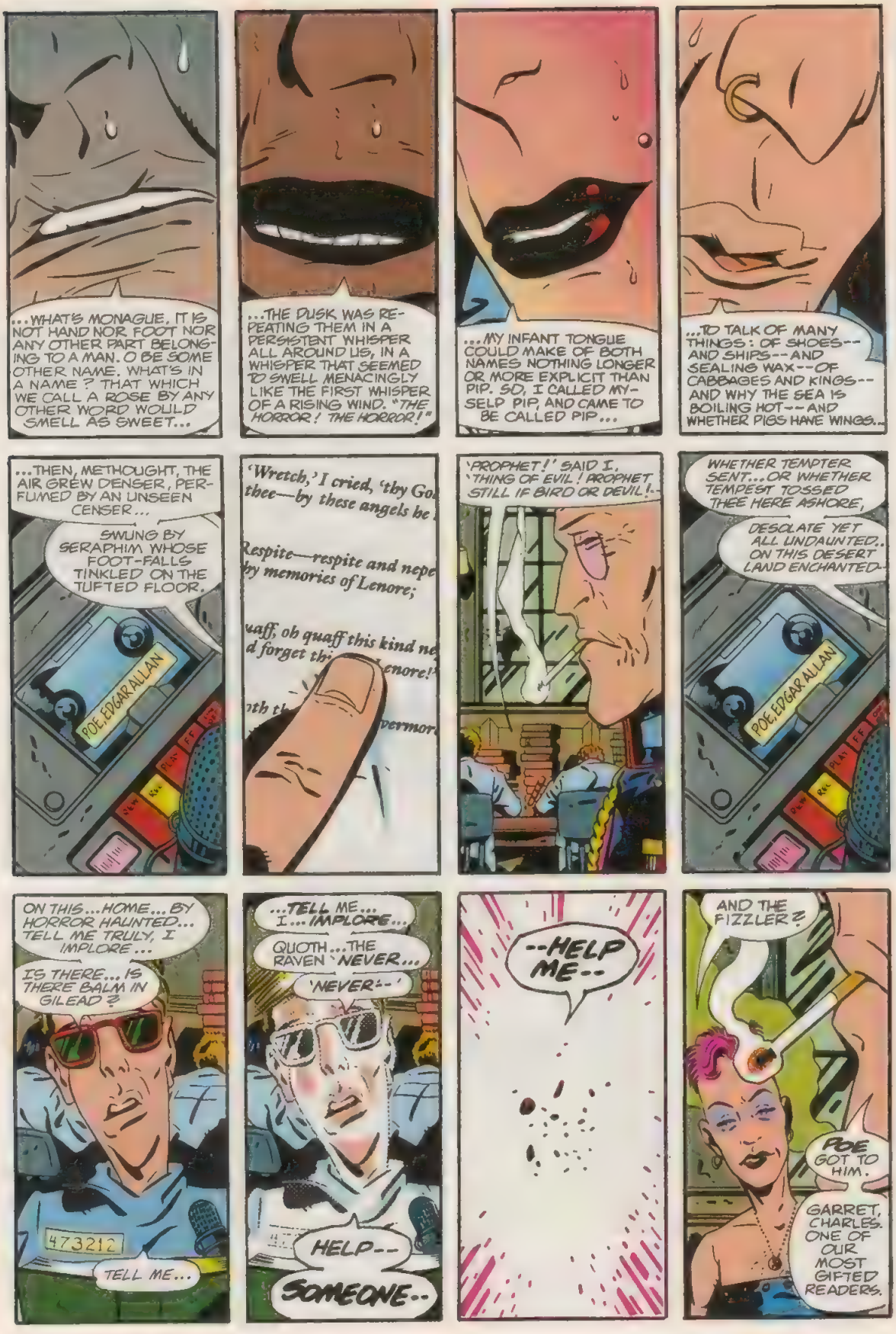
AFTER THEY

AFTER THEM!
AFTER THEM!
AFTER THEM!
AND AWAY WE GO!
NOTICE ANYTHING WEIRD ABOUT THOSE GOONS, KOJAK?
THEY'VE GOT AWFULLY GOOD RHYTHM!
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHY!
WHENEVER THEY MOVE...
...THEY MOVE AS ONE!
WHAT?
I SAID
THEY MOVE
AS ONE
IT'S ALMOST AS IF EVERY STEP THE M.J.V.'S TAKE--
EVERY MOVE THEY MAKE--
IS BEING CHOREOGRAPHED.
CONTROLLED BY SOMEONE SOMEWHERE IN THIS TOWN!

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE SEEING THE OLD SHAFT SYNDROME AT WORK, KOJAK.
COME AGAIN?
YOU KNOW.
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE SEEN MOVIES AND TV EPISODES WHERE THE HERO IS STRANDED SOMEWHERE WITH NO WAY OUT...
...UNTIL HE CONVENIENTLY COMES ACROSS SOME SORT OF VENTILATION SHAFT...
...OR TUNNEL ON THE PREMISES...
...THAT ENABLES HIM TO FIND HIS WAY OUT--
OH, GEEZ.
Sheesh! IT LOOKS LIKE A WAR ZONE OUT THERE.
GOONS, PROBABLY. THEY MUST'VE COME THROUGH BLASTING ANYTHING THAT MOVES--
--LOOKING FOR ME!
SO WHERE DOES THIS LEAVE US?
KLUNNG!
?!? WEIRD.
I GET THE STRANGEST FEELING I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE.
YOU HAVE.
CHECK OUT THE BARBED WIRE WALLS.
WE SAW THIS JUMBO-SIZED FORTRESS FROM THE REAR WHEN DOREEN DROPPED ME OFF TODAY.
BUT I NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED WHAT WE WERE LOOKING AT...
...NOT IN A MILLION YEARS.


...IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES, IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES...
...and she gave birth to her first born and wrapped him in swaddling clothes...
TYGER! TYGER! BURNING BRIGHT... IN THE FOREST OF THE NIGHT...
...better to reign in Hell, than serve in Heaven...
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
THE THOUSAND INJURIES OF FORTUNATO I HAS BORNE AS BEST I COULD...
the stars were so big above us they looked like they could be plucked like zircon plums...
ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WERE THREE LITTLE PIGS...
And there it stood for years, stranded like some gargantuan dream beside Sunset Boulevard

I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET MY CARD EXPIRE!
FUNNY, JACK.
TELL ME ANOTHER ONE.
ALL RIGHT.
WE'RE GOING IN TO BRONSE.
B-BUT THE GOONS!
KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT, KOJAK!
IF THEY SMELL BOOK-GLUE ON YOUR BREATH WE'VE HAD IT!
THERE.
THAT'S OUR WAY IN.
WHOA.
NEVER SAW HIM BEFORE.
POOR GUY DEFINITELY NEEDS TO GET SOME SUN.
FICTION A-F
176-671
NOW WHAT.
LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF ASSEMBLY LINE, KOJ.
I'M GOING TO TAG ALONG BEHIND.
THE WAY YOU'RE DRESSED, PAL?
AT LEAST I'VE GOT A LOW PROFILE.
YOU HANG BACK WHILE I SNIFF AROUND FOR AWHILE.
OKAY.
BUT LET'S BE CAREFUL OUT THERE.
THAT'S A TEN-FOUR.


...WHAT'S MONAGUE, IT IS NOT HAND NOR FOOT NOR ANY OTHER PART BELONGING TO A MAN. O BE SOME OTHER NAME. WHAT'S IN A NAME ? THAT WHICH WE CALL A ROSE BY ANY OTHER WORD WOULD SMELL AS SWEET...
...THE DUSK WAS REPEATING THEM IN A PERSISTENT WHISPER ALL AROUND US, IN A WHISPER THAT SEEMED TO SMELL MENACINGLY LIKE THE FIRST WHISPER OF A RISING WIND. "THE HORROR! THE HORROR!"
...MY INFANT TONGUE COULD MAKE OF BOTH NAMES NOTHING LONGER OR MORE EXPLICIT THAN PIP. SO, I CALLED MYSELF PIP, AND CAME TO BE CALLED PIP...
...TO TALK OF MANY THINGS: OF SHOES--AND SHIPS--AND SEALING WAX--OF CABBAGES AND KINGS--AND WHY THE SEA IS BOILING HOT--AND WHETHER PIGS HAVE WINGS...
...THEN, METHOUGHT, THE AIR GREW DENSER, PERFUMED BY AN UNSEEN CENSER...
SWUNG BY SERAPHIM WHOSE FOOT-FALLS TINKLED ON THE TUFTED FLOOR.
POE, EDGAR ALLAN
'Wretch,' I cried, 'thy God
thee—by these angels he
Respite—respite and nepe
by memories of Lenore;
quaff, oh quaff this kind ne
d forget th
enore!'
'PROPHET!' SAID I, 'THING OF EVIL! PROPHET STILL IF BIRD OR DEVIL!'
WHETHER TEMPTER SENT...OR WHETHER TEMPEST TOSSED THEE HERE ASHORE,
DESOLATE YET ALL UNDAUNTED,. ON THIS DESERT LAND ENCHANTED
POE, EDGAR ALLAN
ON THIS...HOME...BY HORROR HAUNTED... TELL ME TRULY, I IMPLORE...
IS THERE...IS THERE BALM IN GILEAD ?
473212
TELL ME...
...TELL ME... I...IMPLORE...
QUOTH...THE RAVEN 'NEVER...
'NEVER--'
HELP--
SOMEONE--
--HELP ME--
AND THE FIZZLER ?
POE GOT TO HIM.
GARRET, CHARLES. ONE OF OUR MOST GIFTED READERS.

HOW MANY *READERS* DO WE HAVE TO *LOSE*, MAPLE--

--BEFORE YOU TAKE THE HAZARDS OF THIS OPERATION SERIOUSLY?

I'VE WARNED YOU BEFORE ABOUT RAISING THE *QUOTAS*.

YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A READER IS FORCED TO *UP* HIS TEMPO *OVER* A 100 WORDS PER MINUTE!

THEN IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY *FIZZLE-OUT*!

YOU'D JUST LOVE TO SEE ME *DEMOTED* TO A THIRD-CLASS READER, WOULDN'T YOU, STRICK.

AND *YOU* KNOW HIS *AWESOMENESS* PASSED THE WORD--

--HE WANTS THE ENTIRE LIBRARY *AUDIOIZED* BY THE END OF THE YEAR!

THAT'S 170,000 MORE CASSETTES WE HAVE TO FILL!

YOU'RE A SUPERVISOR.

GO BACK TO YOUR STATION AND *SUPERVISE*!

AS LONG AS I'M IN CHARGE HERE, WORKER WORD-SPEED SHALL BE DETERMINED BY *ME*!

YOUR CALL, MAPLE.

AS *LONG* AS YOU'RE IN CHARGE!

IT'S ABOUT TIME!

SO WHAT'S THE STORY IN THERE?

THERE ARE 170,000 OF THEM, KEMO SABÉ...

...AND EVERY LAST ONE IS BEING PUT ON *CASSETTE*!

?!? WHAAT

YOU'D BETTER FILL ME IN!

...WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME IS REALLY HARD TO SWALLOW, KOJAK!

YOU WANT *HARD TO SWALLOW*? TRY EATING A *BOOK* PAL.

OKAY, OKAY I *BELIEVE* YOU.

IN FACT, EVERYTHING YOU SAW AND HEARD SORT OF JIVES WITH A *THEORY* I CAME UP WITH WHILE YOU WERE GONE.

"THAT *BLACK-AND-WHITE* GUY WE SAW AWHILE BACK-- *HE'S* WHAT GOT ME THINKING."

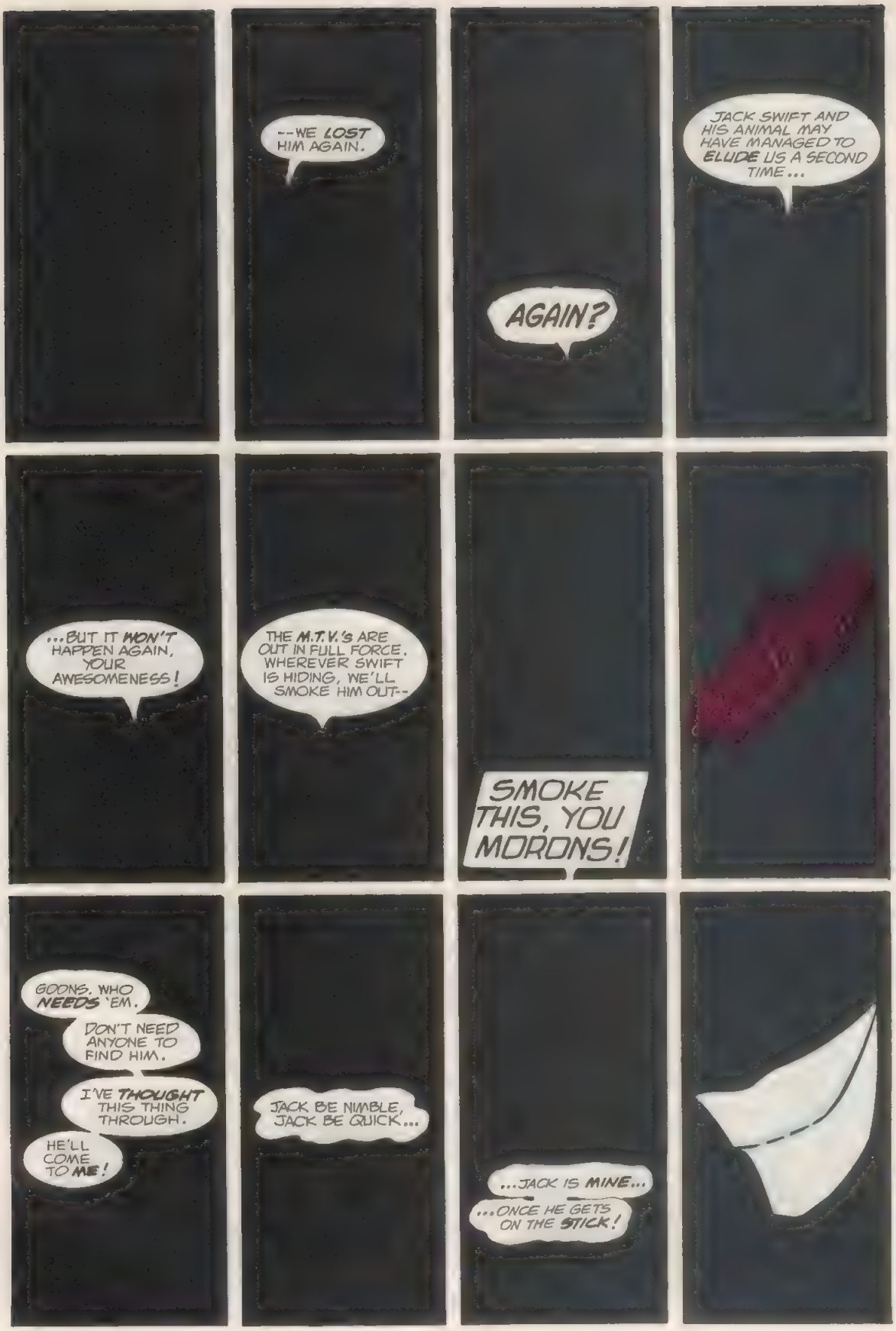
ICTION G-M

"THINKING ABOUT WHAT MIGHT *REALLY* BE GOING ON AROUND HERE."

THINKING ABOUT *WHERE* "HERE" REALLY *IS*!

LET'S *GO*, BOY! IF I'M RIGHT, WE'VE GOT TO *HUSTLE*!

DON'T CALL ME *BOY*!


--WE LOST HIM AGAIN.
AGAIN?
JACK SWIFT AND HIS ANIMAL MAY HAVE MANAGED TO ELUDE US A SECOND TIME...
...BUT IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN, YOUR AWESOMENESS!
THE M.T.V.'S ARE OUT IN FULL FORCE. WHEREVER SWIFT IS HIDING, WE'LL SMOKE HIM OUT--
SMOKE THIS, YOU MORONS!
GOONS, WHO NEEDS 'EM.
DON'T NEED ANYONE TO FIND HIM.
I'VE THOUGHT THIS THING THROUGH.
HE'LL COME TO ME!
JACK BE NIMBLE, JACK BE QUICK...
...JACK IS MINE...
...ONCE HE GETS ON THE STICK!

GAG ME WITH A BONE!
WHY DAMON'S HOUSE?
HEY, I KNOW YOU MISS THE CREEP AND ALL THAT...
BUT THERE ARE BETTER PLACES TO HIDE, PAL.
THE XARNETT HOUSE ISN'T A PLACE TO HIDE, PAL.
IT'S A WAY OUT.
IF WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR IS STILL IN THE VIDEO-ROOM!
I COULD'VE SWORN I LEFT THAT DOOR OPEN.
YOU DON'T SUPPOSE ANY OF THOSE M.T.V. GOONS ARE INSIDE?
LISTEN--
YOU HEAR ANY MUSIC?
NOT A NOTE!
ME NEITHER.
M.T.V.'S ARE ALWAYS ACCOMPANIED BY MUSIC.
THE COAST IS CLEAR.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR!
IS IT BIGGER THAN A DOG BISCUIT?

uhh... JACK?
I HAVE TO GO.
BUT WE JUST GOT HERE, KOJAK.
NO. I MEAN I HAVE TO GO.
OH.
IT'S THE THIRD DOOR ON THE LEFT.
THANKS.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
I'LL BE UPSTAIRS
IN THE VIDEO-ROOM.
YO JACK
FLUSH
FLUSH
FLUSH
SO THAT'S HOW THESE THINGS WORK.
FASCINATING!
I MUST TRY THAT AGAIN!
FLUSH
FLUSH
JACK
AFTER HAULING YOUR ASS ALL THE WAY BACK HERE...
...AREN'T YOU GONNA COME IN?
YOU OBVIOUSLY FIGURED OUT THE SECRET, SAME AS ME.
NOBODY IN THIS TOWN THINKS ON HIS FEET FASTER THAN JACK SWIFT--
--EXCEPT YOURS TRULY--
--MY AWESOMENESS--

YO, JACK
YO, JACK
--DAMON XARNETT!
HERE'S LOOKIN' AT YOU, KID!
I THINK THIS MIGHT BE THE BEGINNING OF A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP!
STAY TUNED FOR
VIDEO JACK #3!
And now a few words from our sponsor...

epic-grams

WHAT THE HECK ARE WE DOING?

At this writing, I'm just back from the Chicago Comics Convention, the first of the three big summer conventions (San Diego and Atlanta are the other two). As usual it was a lot of fun and of a lot of interest. For me, one of the biggest points of interest is meeting in person with readers of our books. And, with amazing regularity, people that I meet seem to ask: *What the heck is Epic doing now?* The question apparently grows from a fear that we've gone out of business. The concern, while groundless, is appreciated. The reason for it developing is twofold.

FOLD ONE

Last year I didn't bring out any new titles because Marvel was in the midst of a big promotional push for its New Universe books. Competition in the comics biz is tough enough. Why compete with yourself? So when a Limited Series ran its course or a weak title died a natural death, I didn't leap to instantly replace it,

FOLD TWO

Good Plan. But while we know there's a jillion things in the works, our *readers* don't always. To the creators and all of us on staff, a lot of work is being done. But for many readers, if they don't see the books on the racks of their local comics shop or if the books that are there don't happen to be titles that they follow, they begin to wonder if you're still in business.

NO, REALLY, WHAT THE HECK ARE WE DOING?

So, just in case you're one of those who've been wondering, we're in the middle of a veritable Epic publishing blitz. The Moebius graphic novels are appearing on a bi-monthly basis. One of our niftiest new titles, **Video Jack** by **Cary Bates** and **Keith Giffen** just debuted last month. **Marshal Law** (which raises the term anti-hero to undreamt of heights) by **Pat Mills** and **Kevin O'Neill** will stun you this month, as will the all-new **Alien Legion.** September through December will see **Marc DeMatteis** and **Kent Williams'** ambitious, squarebound format **Blood** Limited Series. In the same format, but a one-shot, is **Hellrider,** a rugged post-holocaust adventure by **Joe Jusko;** in time for Christmas shopping will be the long-awaited **Groo Graphic Novel** by **Mark Evanier** and **Sergio Aragonés** and the much anticipated **IRON MAN: CRASH,** the first computer generated graphic novel (including the incredible color), by **Mike Saenz.**

On tap after New Year's will be our three interconnecting superhero (sort've) titles: **Doctor Zero, Powerline,** and **St. George.** Further in 1988, you'll be seeing a new Limited Series, **The Light and Darkness War,** by **Tom Veitch** and **Cam Kennedy** as well as the ongoing adventures of **The Last American** by **John Wagner, Alan Grant** and **Mike McMahon.**

THE POINT

There's even more, but we've already dangerously undercut our **Coming Attractions** box for months to come. The point is if you don't think you've been seeing much of us for a while, relax. You'll be seeing plenty of us for a long time to come.

—Archie Goodwin

checklist

AUGUST

ALIEN LEGION Vol. 2, #1 — It's been two years since Major Sarigar lost his entire Nomad Squadron during a suicide mission on Quaal. They may as well have been sent to Hell. Now Sarigar must risk his career in a desperate attempt to find his lost comrades . . . and his lost soul. "Dead and Buried" is written by Alan Zelenetz and Chuck Dixon, with art by Larry Stroman and Randy Emberlin in an all new format, at a new low price!

GROO THE WANDERER #34 — At last! The return of the Sage and the end of an era as we finally learn the name of his dog! (Bag this one, kiddies!) "The Amulet,"- by Sergio Aragonés with Mark Evanier

ELFQUEST #29 — Deep inside Blue Mountain, it's elf against troll in "The Game of Two Edge" by Wendy and Richard Pini

MARSHAL LAW #1 — Looking for trouble? You came to the right place! Marshal Law means trouble for the so-called "Super-heroes" that infest San Futuro. In his debut issue, Marshal Law stalks The Sleepman "Stars and Strippers" is written by Pat Mills with art by Kevin O'Neill. Others just watch their heroes . . . We kill them! *For mature readers*

SEPTEMBER

BLOOD: A TALE #1 — by J.M DeMatteis and Kent Williams

GROO #35 — by Sergio Aragones with Mark Evanier

ELFQUEST #30 — by Wendy and Richard Pini.

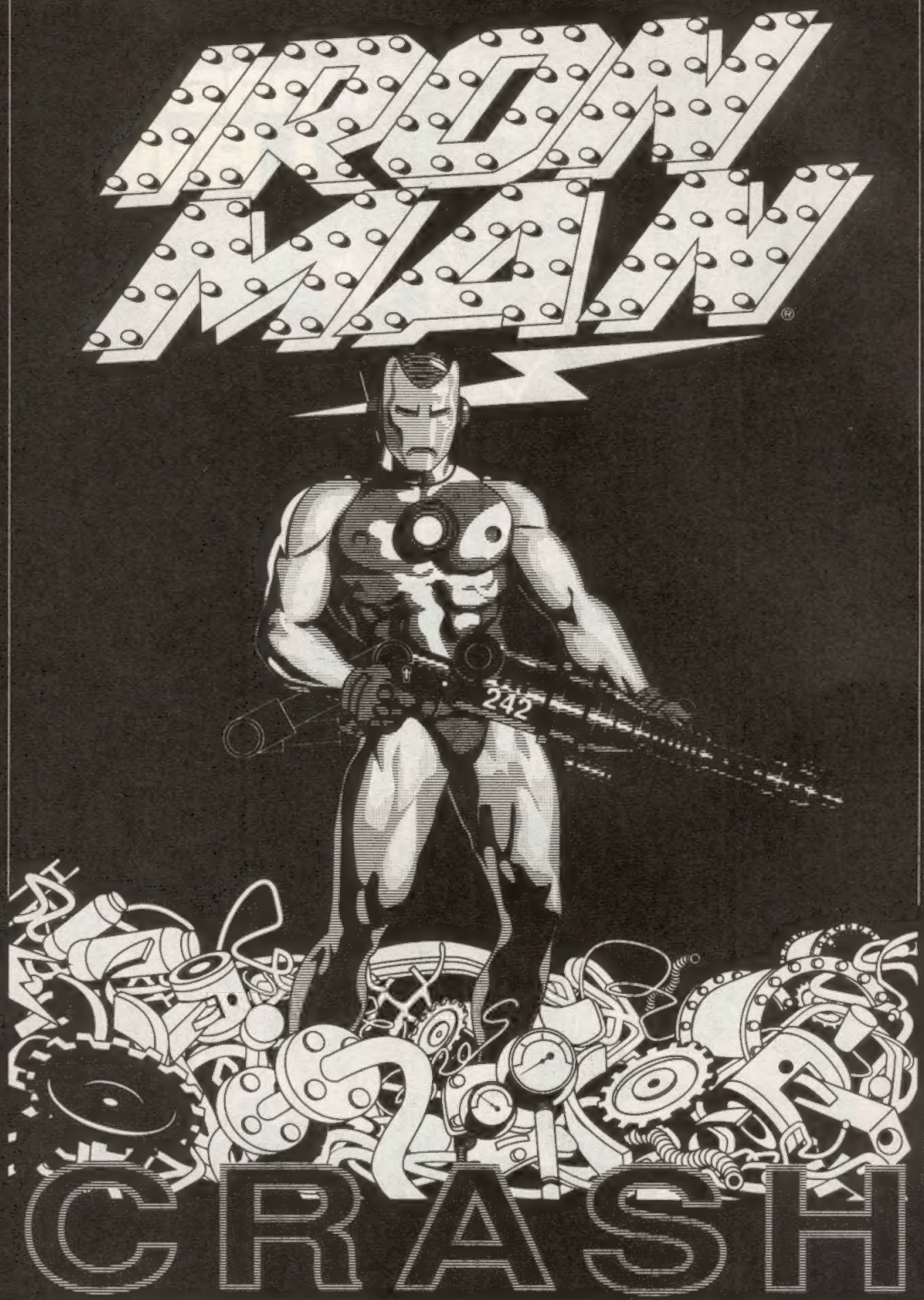
VIDEO JACK #2 — by Cary Bates, Keith Giffen and Dave Hunt

GRAPHIC NOVELS

MOEBIUS 2 — Arzach & Other Fantasy Stories — Second in a six volume series of the collected works of critically acclaimed French artist Jean "Moebius" Giraud. This volume includes the adventures of the pterodactyl-riding warrior Arzach as he journeys through a land filled with haunted ruins and incredible monsters. Other stories include "The Detour," an autobiographical fantasy, "The Ballad" and "Ktulu," plus five pages of art which have never before seen print! *For mature readers*

HE'S LOST HIS SOLDIERS.
HIS RESPECT.
HIS RANK.
BUT HE HASN'T LOST HOPE...
THE NEW
ALIEN LEGION
NEW FORMAT • NEW LOW PRICE
COMING IN AUGUST
FROM EPIC COMICS

A TRIUMPH OF FUTURE TECHNOLOGY.



THE FIRST COMPUTER GENERATED GRAPHIC NOVEL

BY MIKE SAENZ

COMING IN NOVEMBER FROM EPIC COMICS

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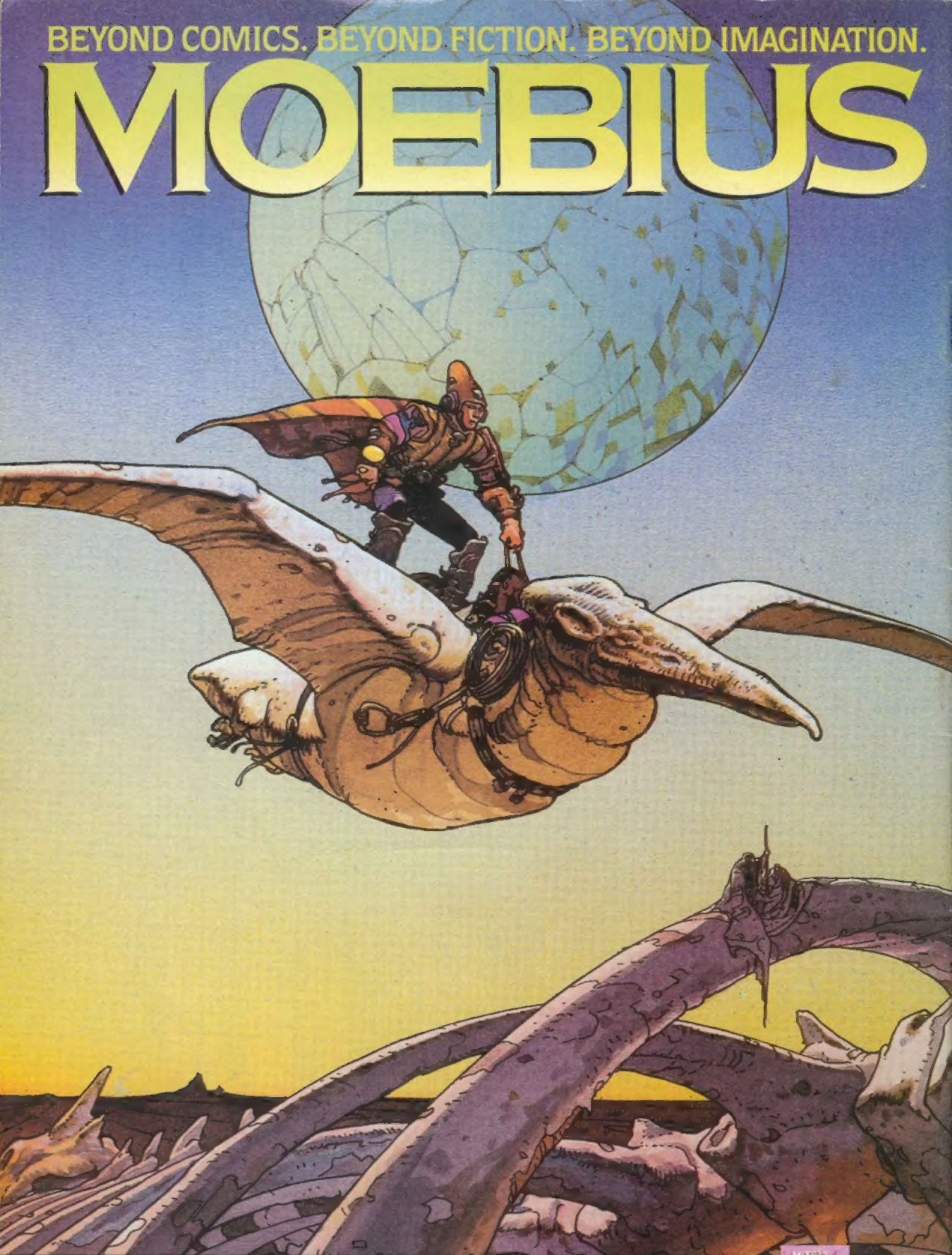
"THEY SAY I DON'T PRAY FOR MY ENEMY. I DO. I PRAY THEY GO TO HELL."
FEAR NOTHING
O'NEILL
MARSHAL LAW
BY PAT MILLS AND KEVIN O'NEILL
BI-MONTHLY FROM EPIC COMICS

BEYOND COMICS. BEYOND FICTION. BEYOND IMAGINATION.

MOEBIUS



Epic Comics proudly presents Moebius, the master of illustrated fantasy. In six collector's edition graphic novels for mature readers.

Now, in full color, new translations of his most acclaimed work plus new stories never before published in America.

Bi-monthly from Epic Comics.

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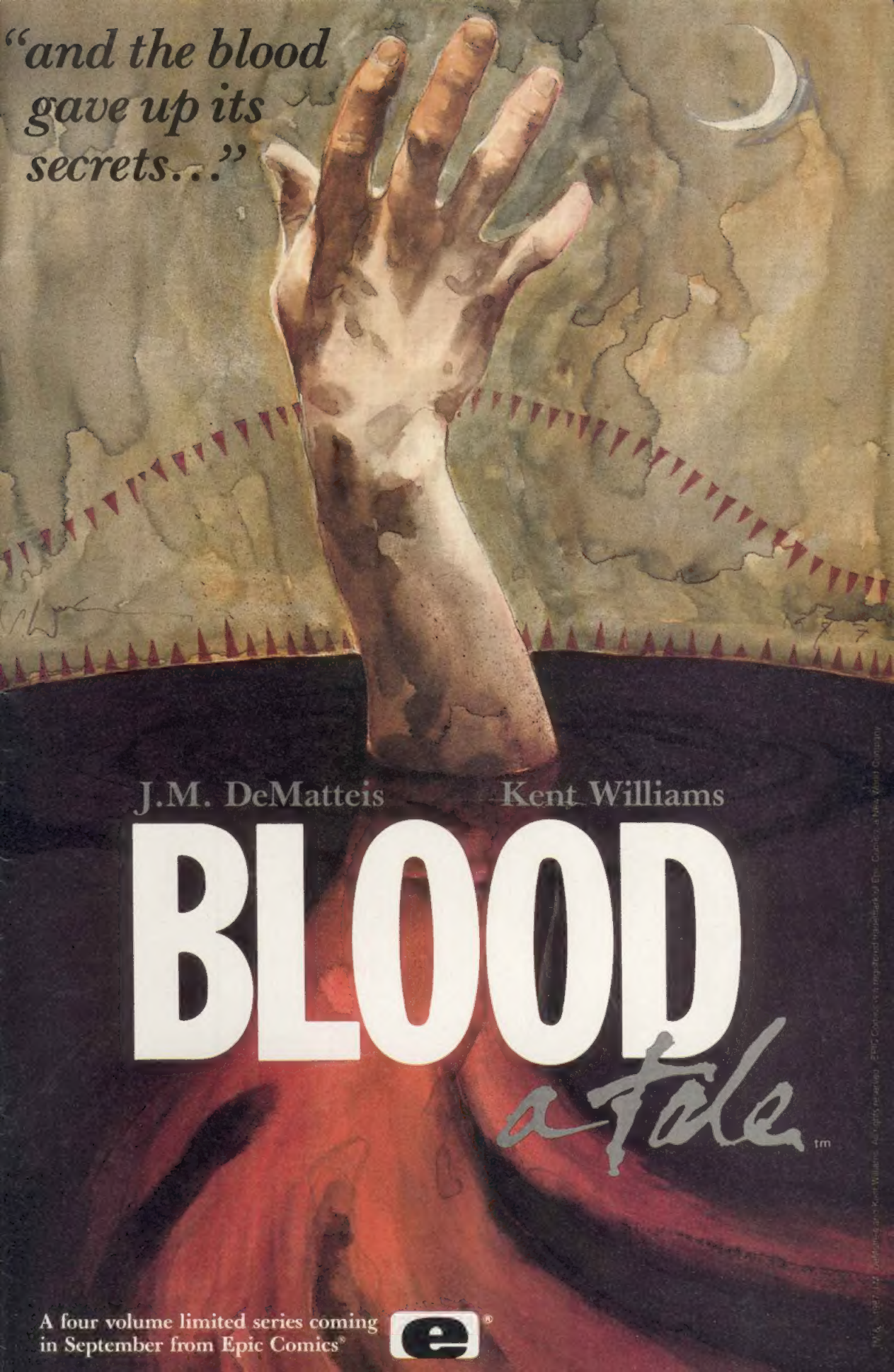
"and the blood gave up its secrets..."
J.M. DeMatteis
Kent Williams
BLOOD
a tale
tm
A four volume limited series coming in September from Epic Comics®